

spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the Jerald Sulky Company of Waterloo, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week for the week of March 13, 2023.

The Jerald Sulky Company has been synonymous with excellence for over 125 years. Since 1898, the company has manufactured sulkies, vehicles similar to horse sleighs, leading the company to become world famous in the showing and on the racetrack. Today, Jerald Sulky Company is the last commercial manufacturer of horse-drawn vehicles in the world. The company began in Osage, IA, when Samuel E. Jerald, Sr., a top craftsman in the horse-drawn vehicle business, decided to build race sulkies. Shortly after, Samuel and his team relocated to Waterloo in 1901 and became known as one of the most innovative companies in the industry, utilizing the latest materials and pioneering new technology. In the early 1900s, there were over a dozen sulky manufacturers; however, the 1930s saw the introduction of the automobile, World War I, and the Great Depression. Innovations in technology, global war, and mass economic downturn took a toll on the sulky industry, and when the dust settled, Jerald Sulky Company was one of only two companies that were still in operation.

During WWII, Jerald Sulky Company recognized the importance of aiding the country's war effort and began manufacturing field ambulances, also known as litter carriers, to hurry fallen soldiers off the battlefield. The company ensured that each field ambulance was crafted with care, to honor each injured soldier, knowing the journey on the field ambulance might be a soldier's last. The company achieved great success during the post-war boom due to the abundance of materials and an influx of horsemen eager for vehicles that were not available during the war; the company modernized many of their classical designs which are still in production today such as the Fine Harness Buggy and the Show Pleasure Cart. Hard times fell on the Jerald Sulky Company in 2014, forcing them to close. Fortunately, at this same time, Erik and Shelli Lee were looking to buy a show cart. They called up Jerald Sulky Company to inquire about purchasing a cart and ended up buying the whole company. Erik and Shelli turned the company around, and now, they ship sulkies domestically and internationally to customers all over the world, while still focusing on the excellence and integrity of their product.

In a world that is growing increasingly automated, the Jerald Sulky Company is committed to handcrafting each of their horse carriages because, for them, it is not a product, it is an art. Their custom-made horse carriages take 6 to 10 weeks to create and are worked on by a staff of 12 artisans who, all combined, have over 200 years of experience in the craft. The carriages range from \$1,500 to \$15,000 due to the

time and labor spent to make them. Furthermore, they source most of their materials locally. As they only want to use the best materials for their carriages and because there are not many producers that create the parts they want, the company's biggest challenge is combating supply chain issues. Even though their supply chain can be difficult to navigate and despite the fact there is not a large market for traditional horse carriages, the Jerald Sulky Company is not worried. They have a loyal customer base that maintains a constant demand for horse carriages. Today, the company, on average, builds 150 new carts each year, a vast improvement from 2014. Additionally, through expanding to more foreign markets, Jerald Sulky Company has continued to grow their customer base, proving that this 125-year-old company is resilient as ever.

The Jerald Sulky Company's commitment to excellence also extends to their local community. In the chaotic days of the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, they did not hesitate in offering to use part of their warehouse as a temporary assembly operation to put together disposable face shields for hospital and clinic staff. More than 60 volunteers from the local community came together at the warehouse to assemble 10,000 shields. Additionally, this past year in March 2022 when tornados ravaged Iowa and destroyed two local horse barns, the Jerald Sulky Company raised awareness about the tragedy and rallied the local community to donate to a GoFundMe for each barn. Similar to when the company sprang to action during the First World War, Jerald Sulky Company continues to answer the call of their community.

Through their drive for excellence, the Jerald Sulky Company has been referred to by some as the Rolls-Royce of the horse-drawn vehicle world. They have received numerous accolades throughout the years. Their sulkies have been on the cover of *Sport Illustrated* several times. Furthermore, the company's impact on the U.S. horse world has been so great that their sulky was featured on a U.S. postage stamp. In 1996, the company was inducted into the Iowa Harness Racing Hall of Fame. More recently, their sulkies have been featured in pop culture on the hit television series "Duck Dynasty." Never compromising the integrity of their product or cutting any corners, the company has gone on to become a leader in the horse world and has achieved great success. I want to congratulate the entire team at the Jerald Sulky Company for their continued commitment to excellence in their work both locally in Iowa and throughout the world. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 870. A bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

H.R. 502. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 815. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-744. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Reporting and Disclosure" (RIN1210-AB97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-745. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Information Return/Reports" (RIN1210-AB97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-746. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change of Address; Technical Amendment" (Docket No. FDA-2019-N-0646) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-747. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins—Addition of SARS-CoV-2 Chimeric Viruses Resulting From Any Deliberate Manipulation of SARS-CoV-2 To Incorporate